

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01836 072237Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

/110 W

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R 072139Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9719

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1836

POUCHED AS INFO TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: ENERGY: FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING, MAY 6

1. PRESS REPORTS THAT PRICE OF OIL AFTER JULY 1 IS STILL UNDECIDED FOLLOWING A FIVE-HOUR PRIVATE LUNCHEON MEETING BETWEEN PM TRUDEAU AND PROVINCIAL PREMIERS. TRUDEAU TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WILL HAVE ONE MORE EFFORT AT CONSULTATION WITH PREMIERS BUT THAT IN LAST ANALYSIS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD, IF NECESSARY, UNILATERALLY INCREASE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS PRICES UNDER AUTHORITY OF PETROLUUM ADMINISTRATION ACT. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE NEW OIL PRICE MUST BE DECIDED BY THE TIME GOVERNMENT PRESENTS ITS BUDGET AT END OF MAY.

2. ACCORDING TO MAY 7 TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN (WITH SUPPORT FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA) ARGUED AT MEETING FOR \$2.00 PER BARRLE INCREASE, "BUT ONE OF THE PREMIERS SAID MR. TRUDEAU SEEMD TO FIND THAT HIGH."

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01836 072237Z

3. COMMENT: FAILURE OF FIRST MINISTERS TO REACH

AGREEMENT ON OIL AND GAS PRICES WAS WIDELY PREDICTED
AND COMES AS NO SURPRISE. CONSULTATIONS AT LEVEL OF
OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAVE ALREADY COMMENCED
AND OCCUPIED ALL INFORMED FEDERAL ENERGY PERSONNEL
THROUGH MAY 7. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS APPROPRIATE
WHEN GOC OFFICIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.
ENDERS

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NNN

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